IF I HAD KNOWN...
THEY WOULD ROB YOUR GRAVE, THIS IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE
Lillie J. Harris

If I Had Known... © Lillie J. Harris
April 2025

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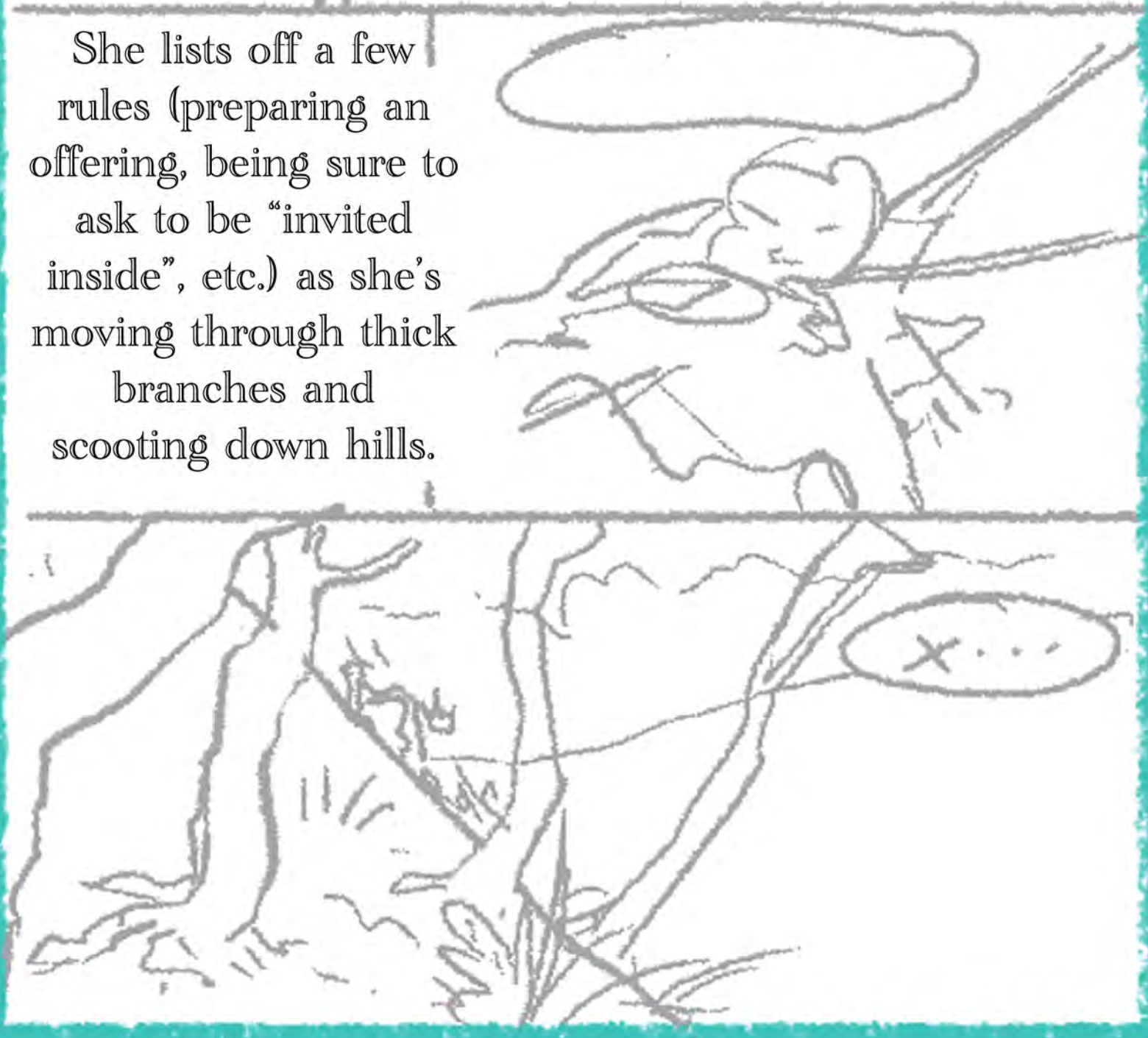
THEY WOULD ROB YOUR GRAVE, THIS IS WHAT I WOULD HAVE DONE

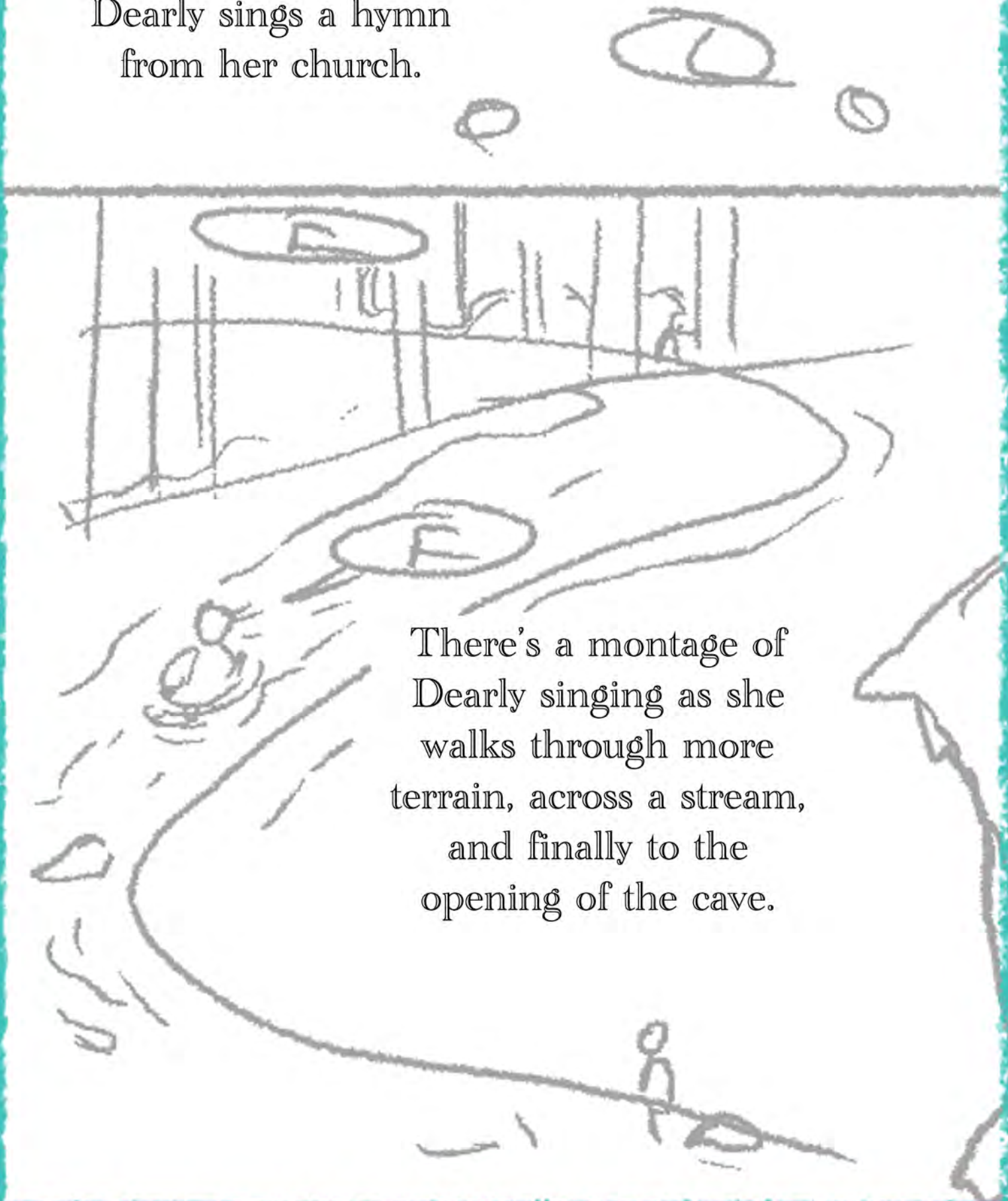
Ss!
ow.

Dearly is traveling through the woods and reciting what she has learned / heard to do when encountering those who can offer her eternal life.

She lists off a few rules (preparing an offering, being sure to ask to be "invited inside", etc.) as she's moving through thick branches and scooting down hills.

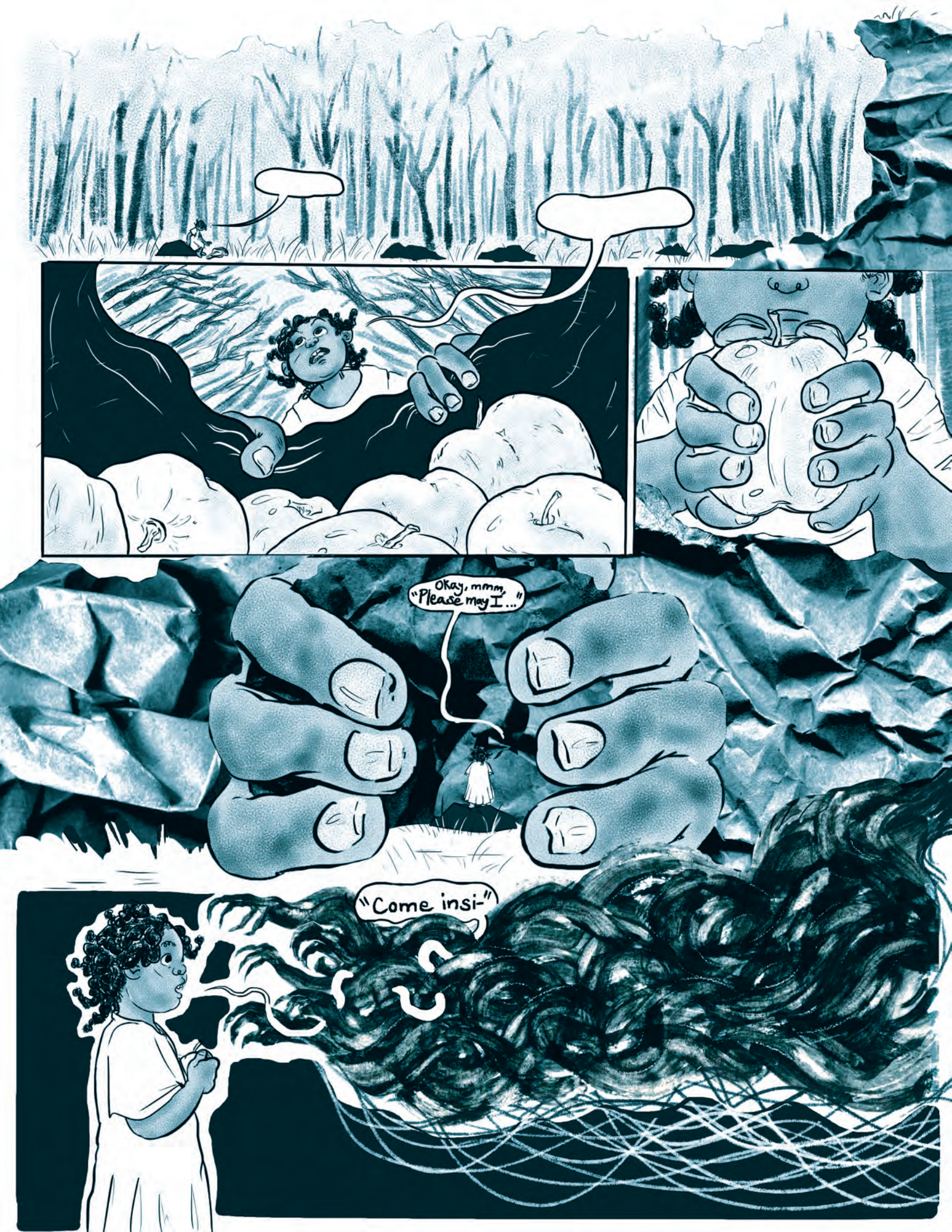


To pass her time traveling,
Dearly sings a hymn
from her church.

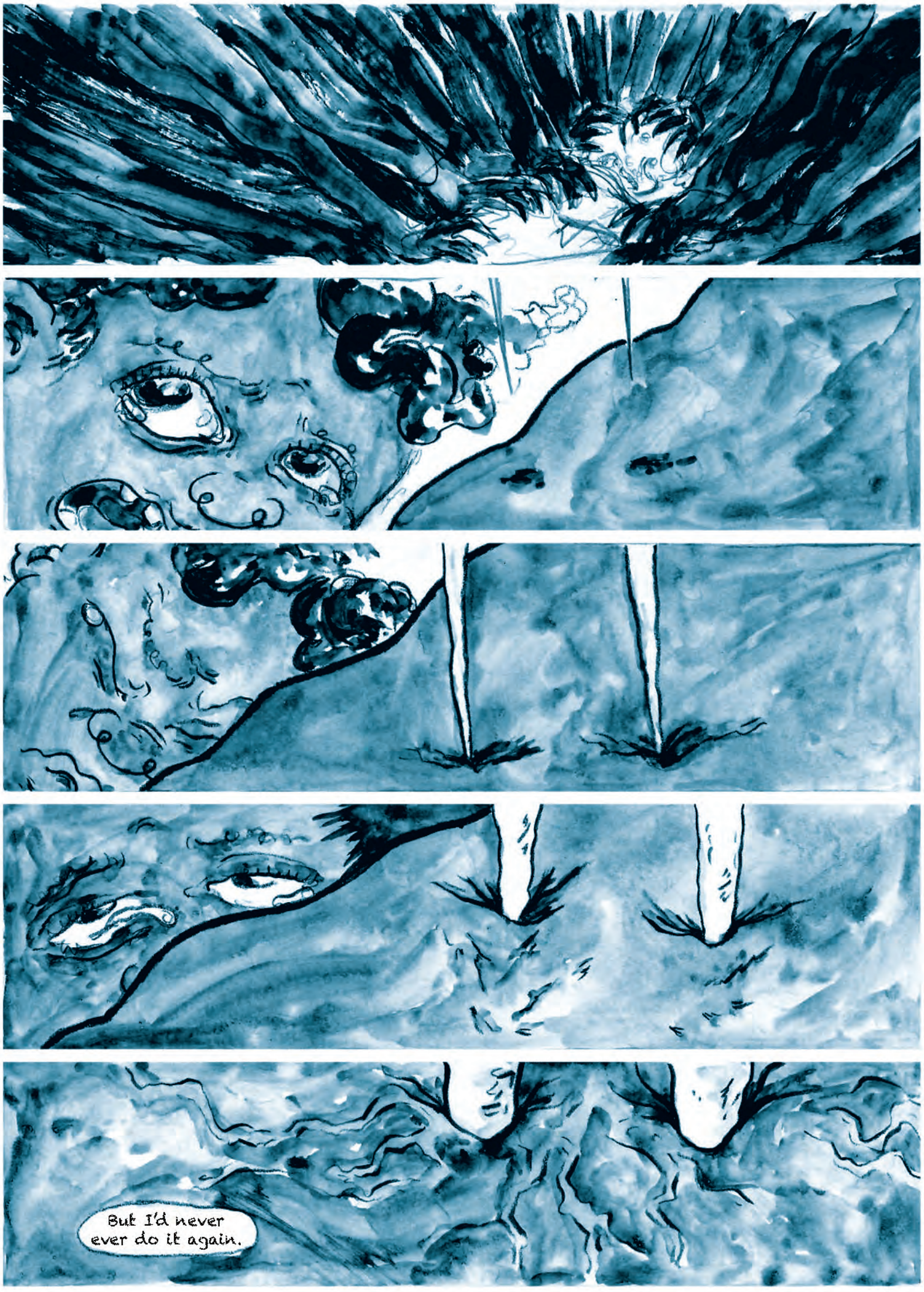


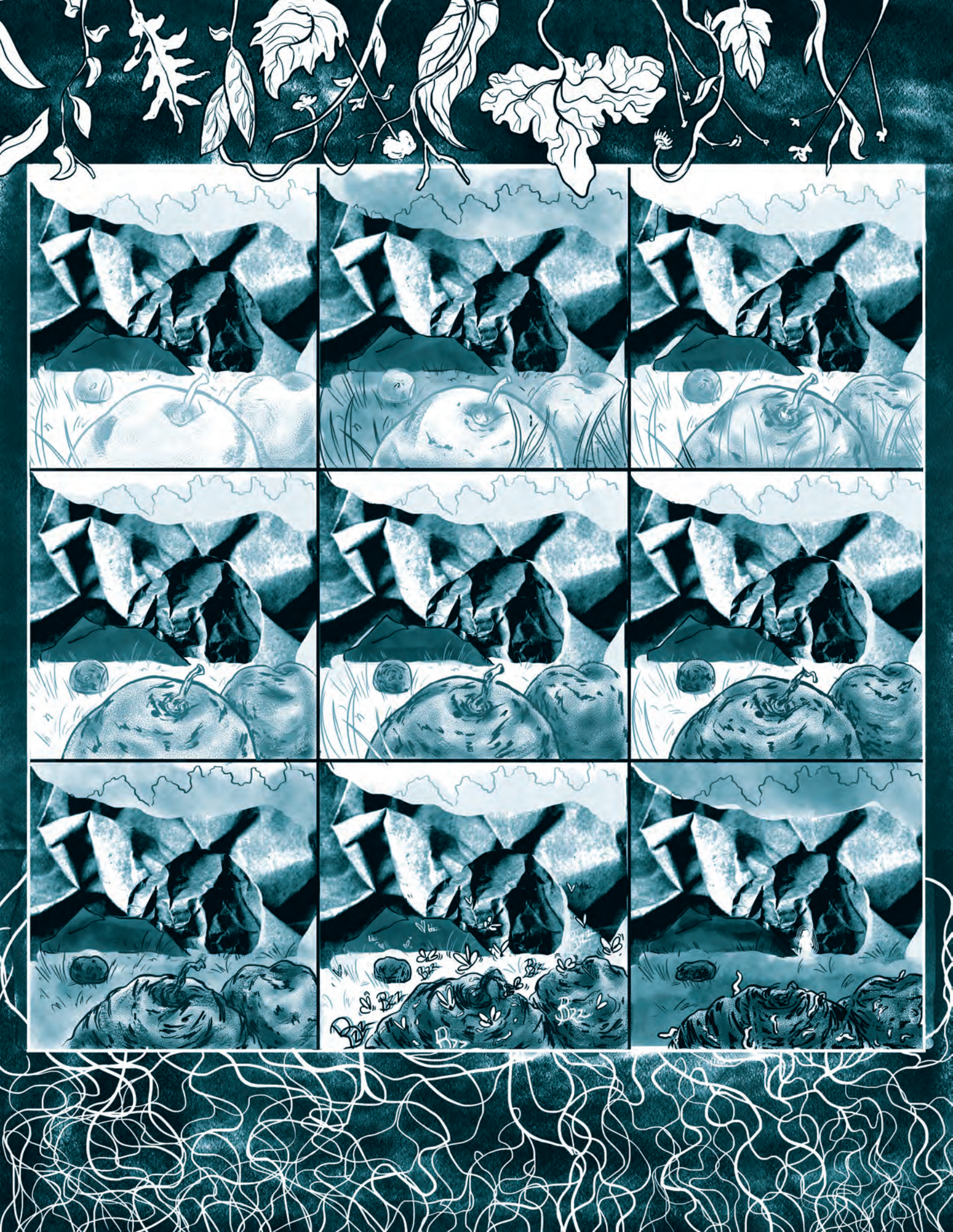
There's a montage of
Dearly singing as she
walks through more
terrain, across a stream,
and finally to the
opening of the cave.

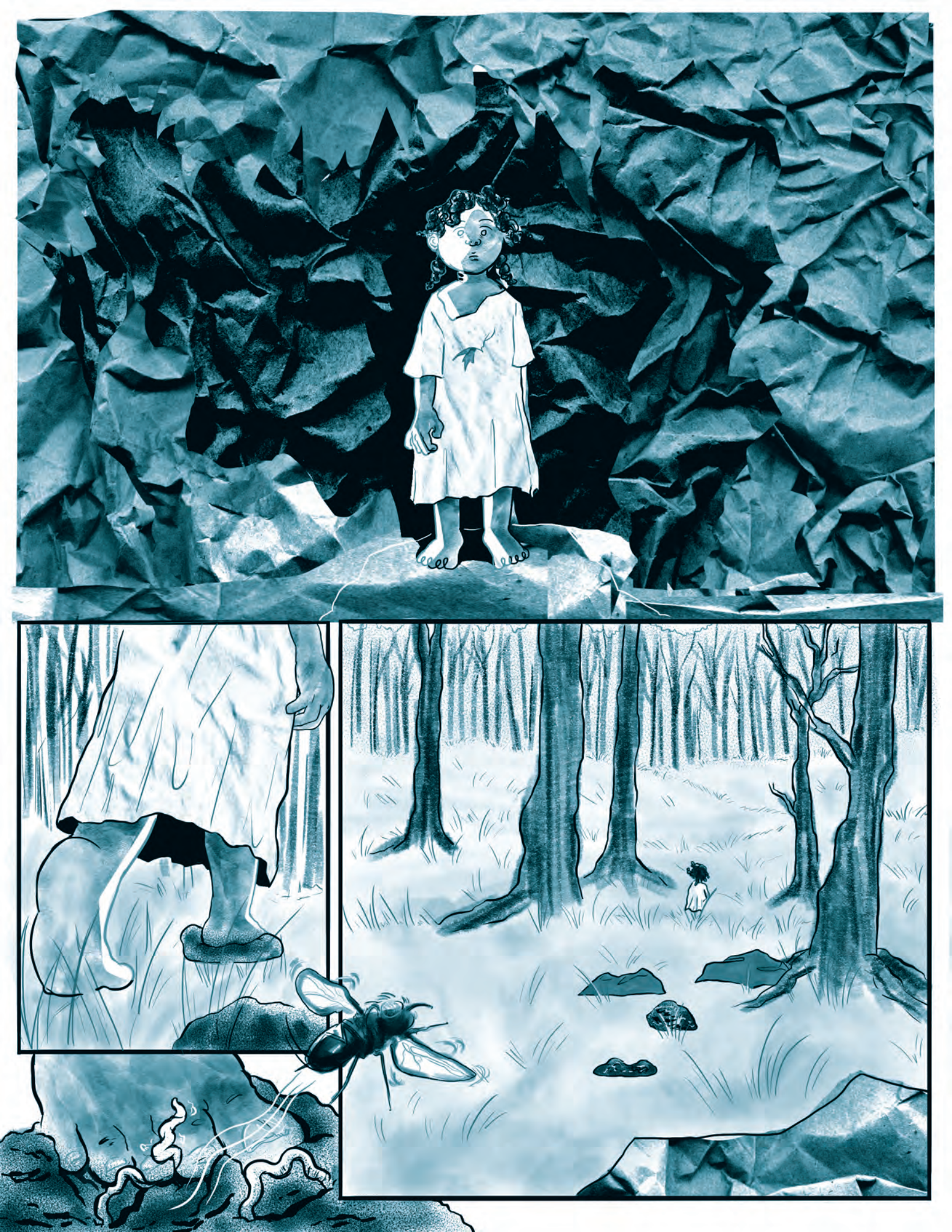
GAAAHLEE~
Oh. I mean-
uh- Hello!
My name's
I heard y'all could help me with somethin' I need...
Eternal life?
Ida-Jean is my big sister.
I walk
night
y'see
she just got buried
they steal'm away
it's
fair...
I don't want them to touch her...


Okay, mmm, "Please may I..."
"Come insi-"

This was the worst part of all, Ida-Jean.
AAAAAH
S'a good thing no one told me how much this stage would hurt...
I might not have done it if they had.
AAHH!
It was worth it, though...
HELP
...to be able to see you.

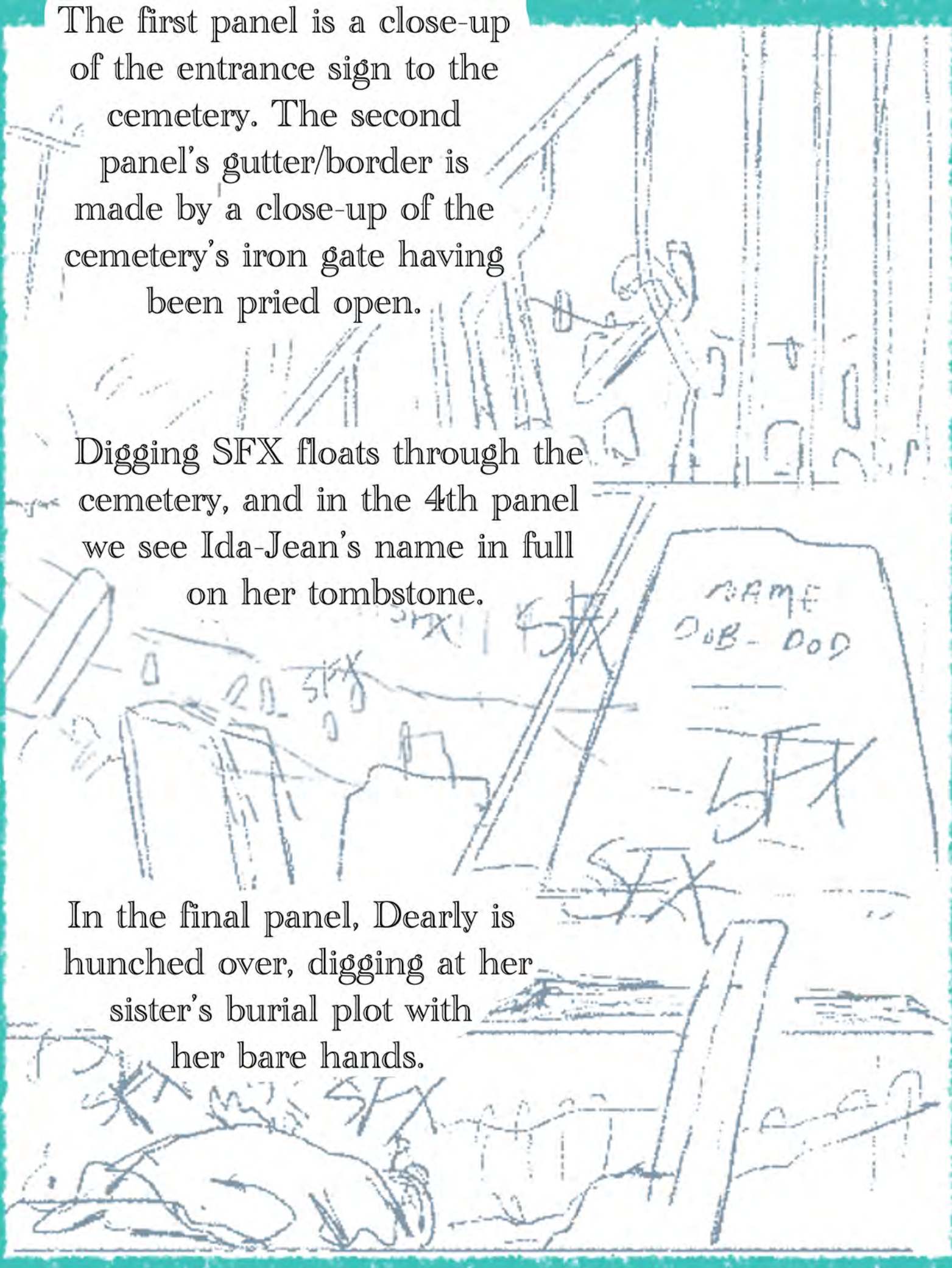

But I'd never ever do it again.





The first panel is a close-up of the entrance sign to the cemetery. The second panel's gutter/border is made by a close-up of the cemetery's iron gate having been pried open.

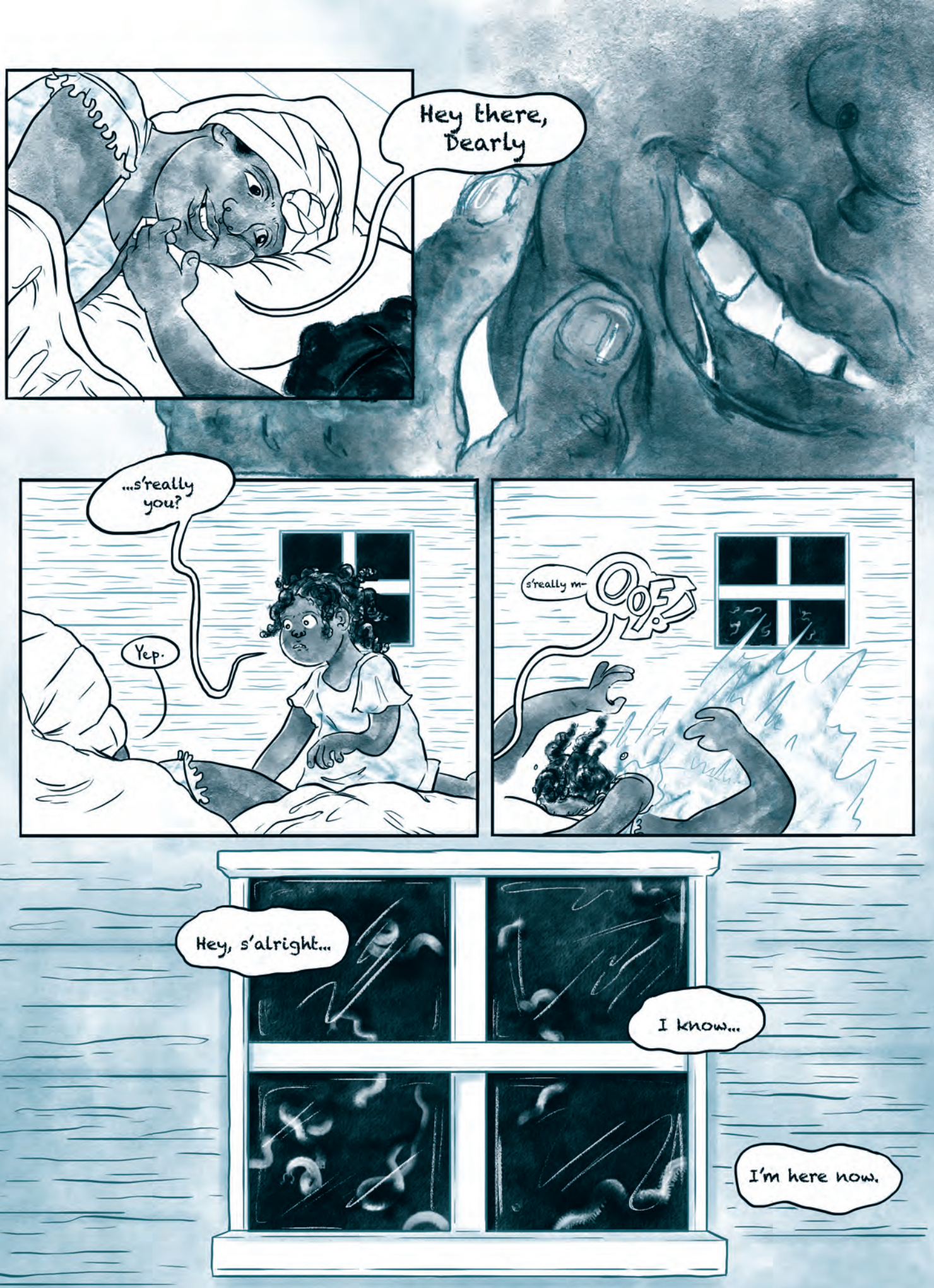
Digging SFX floats through the cemetery, and in the 4th panel we see Ida-Jean's name in full on her tombstone.



In the final panel, Dearly is hunched over, digging at her sister's burial plot with her bare hands.

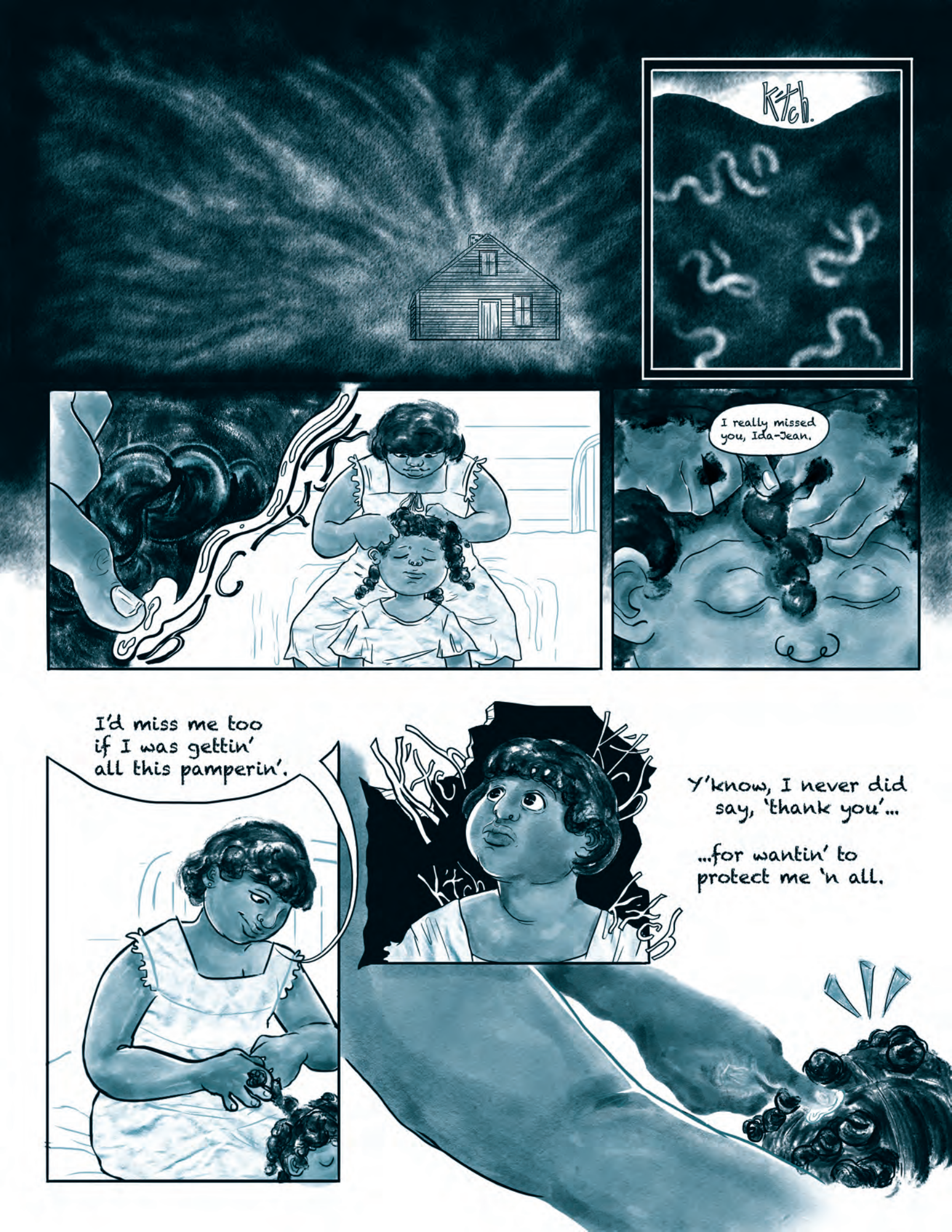
eye—
CREAK

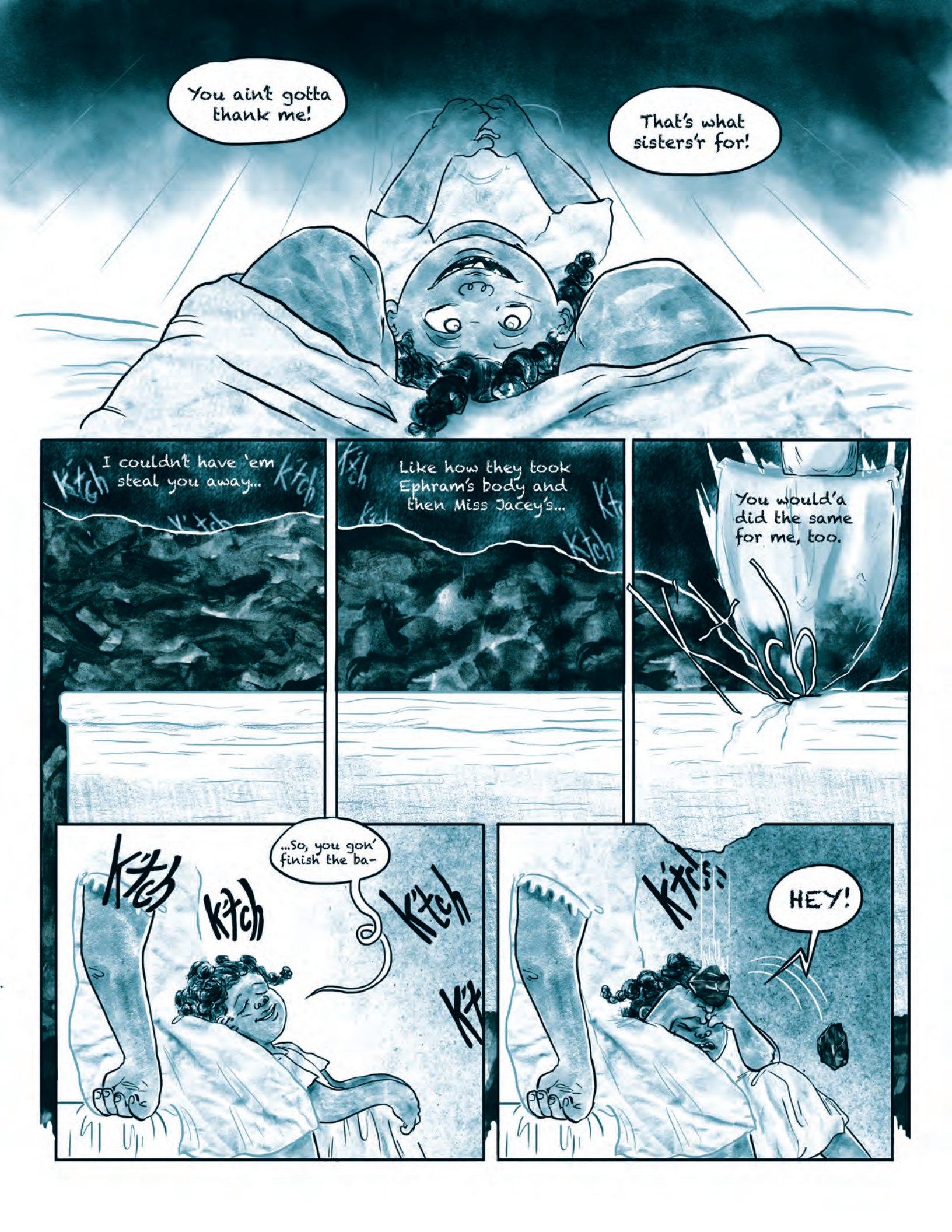
hey, sissy.


Hey there, Dearly
...s'really you?
Yep.
s'really m-
Hey, s'alright...
I know...
I'm here now.

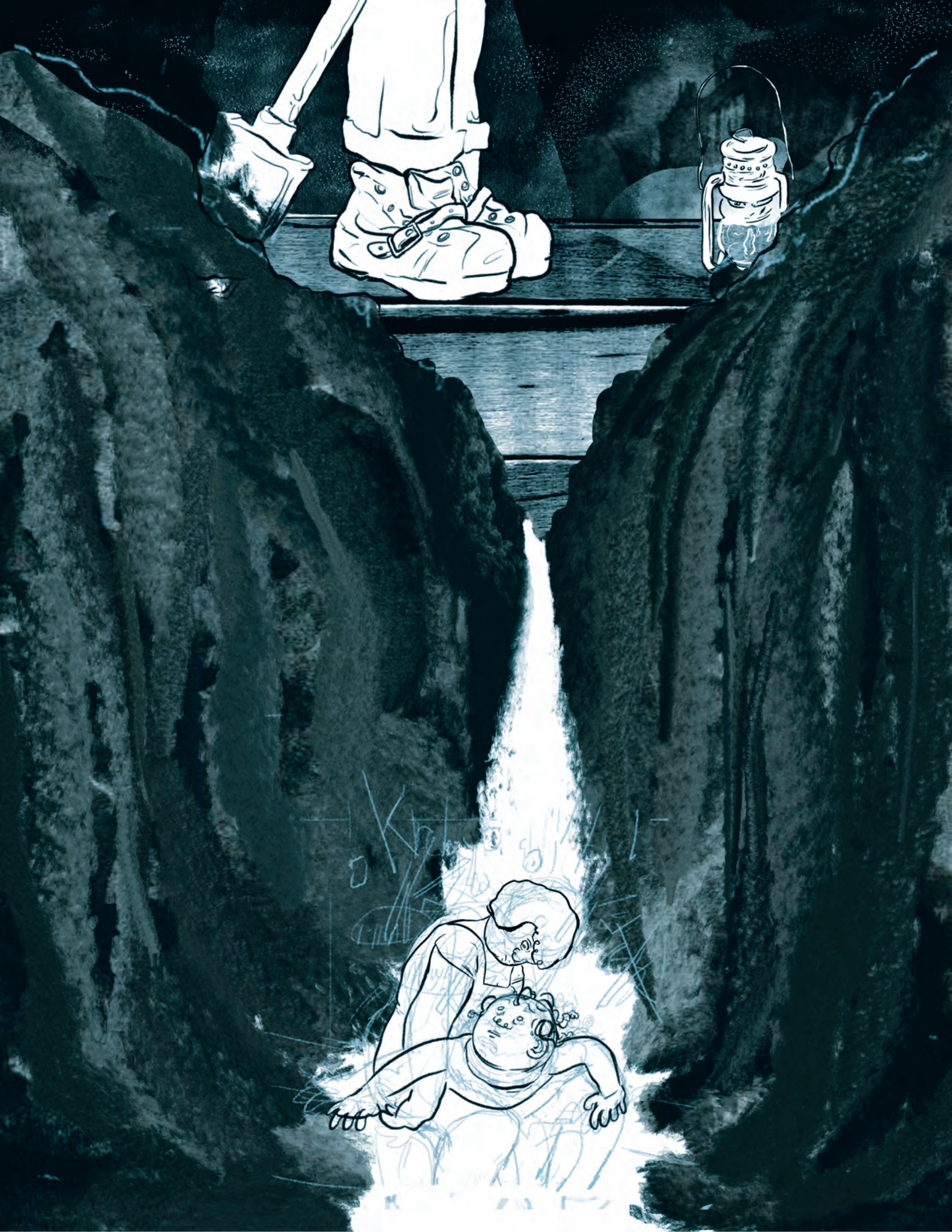
[RAMBLING]
[RAMBLING]
Girl.
Since when'd you ever talk this much?
Sorry.
I just got lotsta catch ya up on, is all...
Feels like forever since we last talked.
Mm...
You oughta start gettin' used to what that feels like.
"Forever", I mean.

Do we gotta talk about that?
No, I 'spose y'right. Besides...
What's done is done.
ch'k
ch'k
ch'k
ch'k
ch'k
ch'k
SISSY, LOOK!
ooh can you press
oh, pretty, pretty please???
I promise I'll hold my ear real good
this time!! I won't
if you end up
looks so goo
Please, pl
Pleeeq
Your old hotcombs!


Kitch.
I really missed you, Ida-Jean.
I'd miss me too if I was gettin' all this pamperin'.
Y'know, I never did say, 'thank you'...
...for wantin' to protect me 'n all.

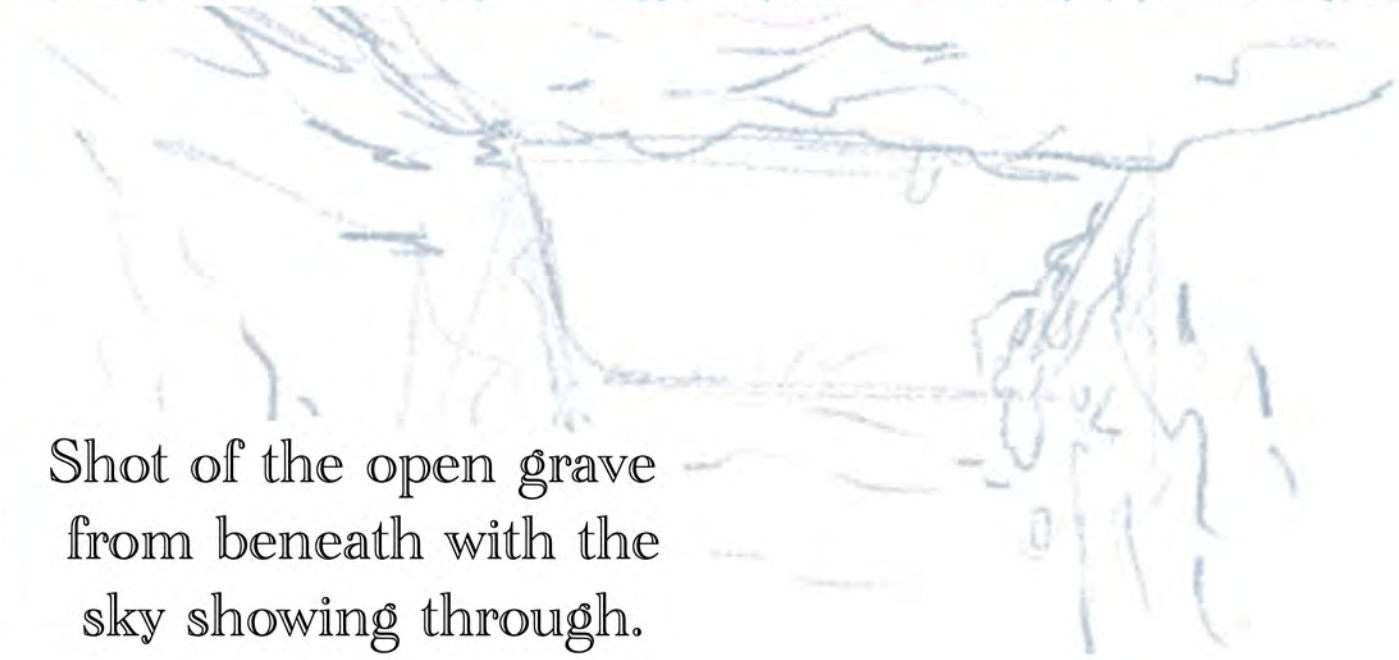

You ain't gotta thank me!
That's what sisters'r for!
I couldn't have 'em steal you away...
Like how they took Ephram's body and then Miss Jacey's...
You would'a did the same for me, too.
...So, you gon' finish the ba-
K'tch
HEY!

GET OFF'A ME



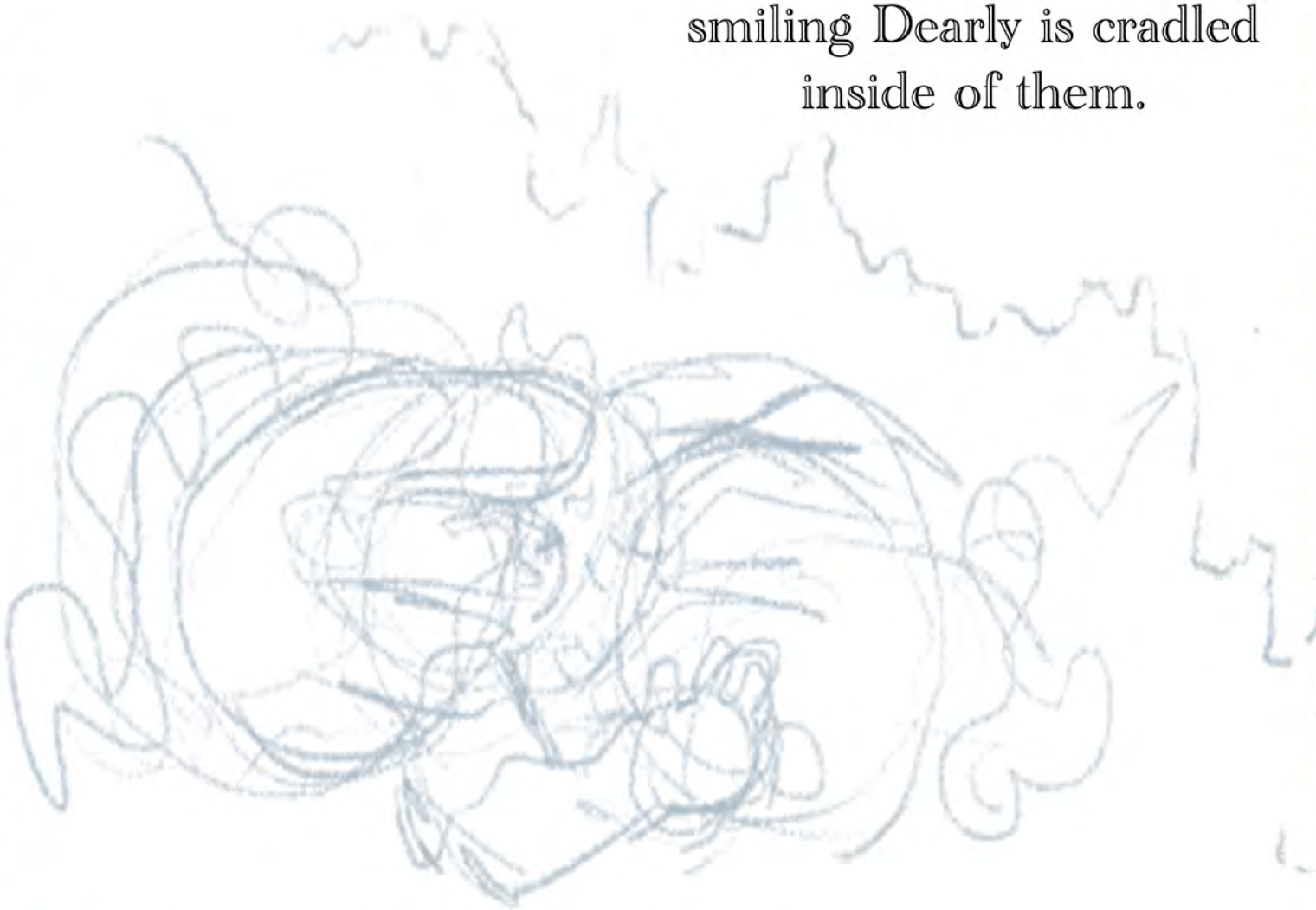
IDA! JEAN
GET UP!!
STOP!
WAKE UP
WAKEURWAKEUP
What in God's name?

DON'T
YOU
TOUCH
thiwp
thiwp
thiwp
thiwp



Shot of the open grave from beneath with the sky showing through.

Ida-Jean's hands are now impossibly large and a smiling Dearly is cradled inside of them.



Mixed Media Used

paper towels, tissues, liquid charcoal, teeth, trash bags, and popsicle sticks

Educational Resource

'Medical Apartheid: The Dark History of Medical Experimentation on Black Americans from Colonial Times to the Present' by Harriet A. Washington

Dedication

For my brother, Keith.

Lillie J. Harris (they/she) is a cartoonist, writer and illustrator from Clinton, Maryland. Tension and empathy are notable themes throughout Lillie's artwork, as well as theology, horror, and not "punching down".

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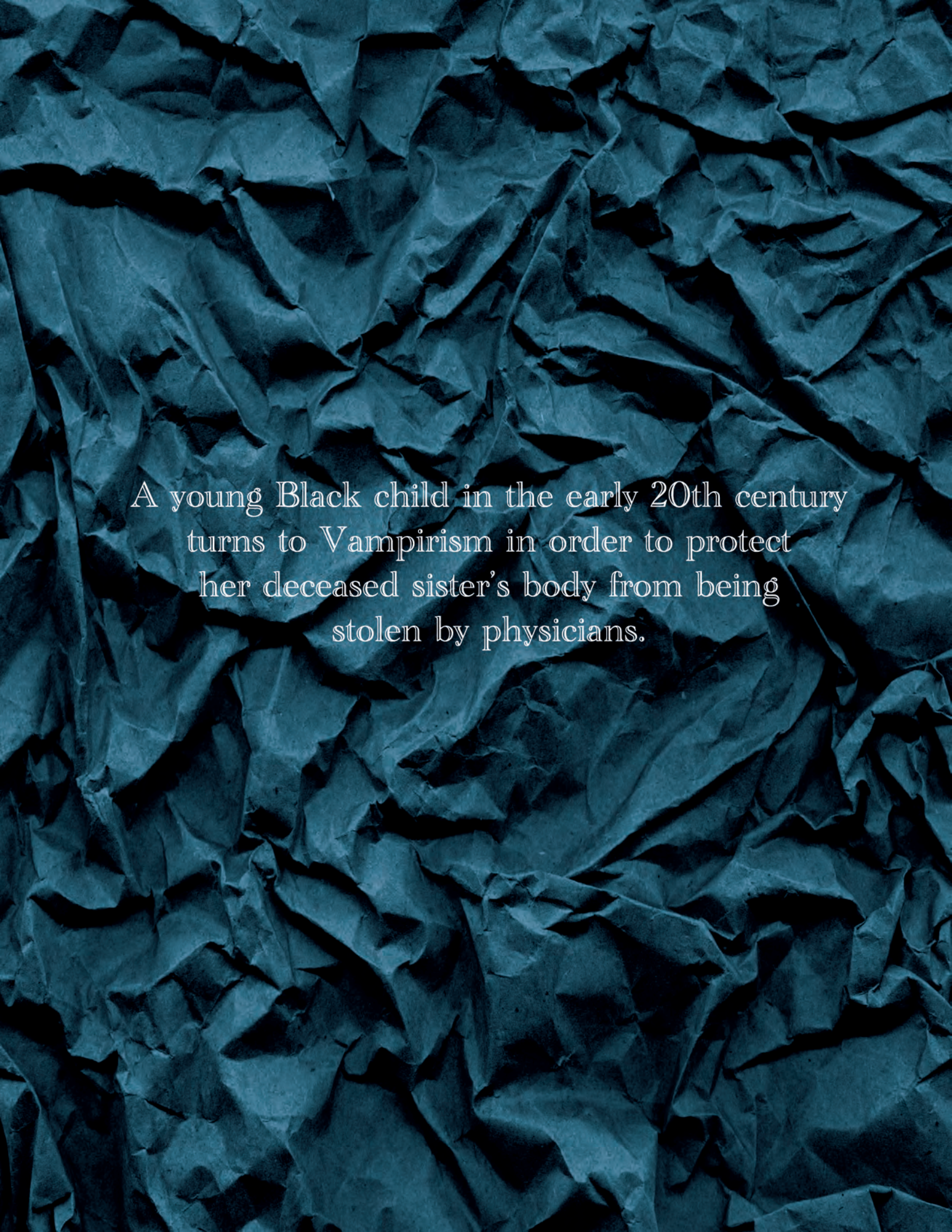
A young Black child in the early 20th century
turns to Vampirism in order to protect
her deceased sister's body from being
stolen by physicians.